

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**ASHK AND LOCAL ARTISTS JOIN HANDS TOGETHER TO LEAD CITIZENS SEARCHING FOR THEIR OWN SPACE AND SHOWCASE HONG KONG ART TO THE WORLD**

(Hong Kong, March 10, 2017) For the first time ever, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) has assembled a group of 11 young and emerging Hong Kong artists to examine the pressure of living in Hong Kong. Held between March 12 and July 9, 2017, *Breathing Space: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* encourages us to slow down and reacquaint with the city that we are living in.

A total of 12 new and 11 extant artworks are on view in the exterior space of ASHK and inside the Chantal Miller Gallery respectively. While the extant works explore various pressures that restrict our *breathing space* in the city, the new commissions create room for us to pause, reflect, and possibly challenge the world around us. The dialogue between indoor and outdoor artworks allows the audience to navigate life in Hong Kong through art.

The participating artists are **Chilai Howard, Chloë Cheuk, Cheuk Wing Nam, Enoch Cheung, South Ho, Vaan Ip, Ko Sin Tung, Andio Lai, Siu Wai Hang, Adrian Wong** and **Magdalen Wong**.

The exhibition is led by in-house curator **Dominique Chan** with **Joyce Hei-ting Wong** and **Ashley Nga-sai Wu** as assistant curators.

Generously supported by KPMG, Hallam Chow and H2 Foundation for Arts and Education, Wellington and Virginia Yee, and Edouard Malingue Gallery, *Breathing Space* is held to commemorate ASHK's fifth anniversary at the Former Explosives Magazine in Admiralty, and visitors can enjoy the exhibition for free.

"Since opening, we have held 15 exhibitions and are committed to working with artists from different countries primarily in Asia to promote cross-cultural understanding," said **S. Alice Mong**, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center. "Previously, we worked with local artists and designers on a ground-breaking design exhibition and eventually brought it to Singapore. This time, I believe our collaboration with the 11 local artists will create new and exciting dialogue about Hong Kong, the artists and the works they have created."

"The exhibition is also held to coincide with Hong Kong's art month, where art lovers and artists from around the globe will descend on Hong Kong for premier art events," added Mong. "This is not only a great opportunity for us to showcase Hong Kong's contemporary art to the rest of the world but also offers Hong Kong people a chance to see art and enjoy a breathing space at the same time."

Hong Kong has a total land area of 1,106 km² but more than 7.3 million people call it home. As such, it is not difficult to imagine the challenges of finding one's personal space amidst the dense urban environment. Through their works, the 11 artists invite us to contemplate Hong Kong's current situation and its quest to finding a space of one's own.

For example, Adrian Wong, Vaan Ip and Cheuk Wing Nam contemplate how Hong Kong's cityscape creates urban restriction and alienation, and express the feelings of uncertainty and urgency, whereas Andio Lai, Ko Sin Tung, South Ho and Chloë Cheuk find inspiration from this and respond to the city's changing social, political and economic dynamic through their art. Siu Wai Hang, Chilai Howard, Enoch Cheung and Magdalen Wong take us on personal journeys that rethink colonial history and migration.

Aside from the *Breathing Space* extant works, Asia Society Hong Kong Center is pleased to announce the return of the Antony Gormley sculpture that stood stoically on the roof of ASHK during Event Horizon last year. Now back atop its original position peering out over the city from dawn till dusk, through rain, fog and shine, he is back encouraging us to look up, reflect and re-assess our own position in the world.

We invite you to visit him as well as Chinese contemporary artist Zhang Huan's monumental sculpture *Long Island Buddha*, Zhang Wan's *Artificial Rock*, Sopheap Pich's *Wall Structure No. 2* and other works on display at ASHK. Entry is free.

To facilitate interaction, viewers are encouraged to draw their own interpretations of the artworks, and to take photos of the exhibits and share their snaps on social media. Also, a *Breathing Space* catalogue is scheduled to be published during the week of Mar 24 to Mar 26.

Throughout the exhibition period, there will be a series of educational programs that promotes exchanges with the artists, including chats and lectures. Moreover, there will be artist-led workshops, where participants can create their own contemporary art with different tools and exhibit their creations at ASHK.

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About Breathing Space: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine

9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Date: March 12 to July 9, 2017

Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm

Last Thursday of each month & March 21-25, 11am to 8pm

Closed every Monday. Last entry: 30 minutes before closing.

Free Admission

Connect with ASHK on social media:

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About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better

understanding of Asia. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, and with a worldwide network of 12 centers, Asia Society is a key educational institution dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.

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